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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/733,748	12/11/2003	Brad Bivens	1505800-050745	8409

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EXAMINER

FASTOVSKY, LEONID M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3742

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SP

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/733,748	BIVENS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Leonid M Fastovsky	3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Batliwalla et al (4,777,351).

Batliwalla teaches a heater assembly (Fig. 6) comprising a first and second flexible layers 27 and 28, at least one flexible electric heating element 21, 22, 23 positioned between the first and second layers and forming first and second heating zones 22 and 23, and wherein the flexible heating element 21, 22, 23 provides non-uniform heating as desired (col. 8, lines 60-67) and comprises bundled resistive wires knitted into a desired form (Fig. 7).

As for claims 12-13, Batliwalla teaches an insulating layer 30 positioned adjacent and secured to the second layer 28 to reduce heat passing through the second layer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 4-10 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Batliwalla in view of Higgins (5,270,519).

Batliwalla discloses substantially the claimed invention, but does not disclose the first and second heating zones are concentric circles and have different watt density and the flexible heating elements comprises two heating elements that are connected in series. Higgins discloses a flexible heating element comprises two heating elements 16 and 18 electrically connected in series, have concentric heating zones, and the heating element 18 inherently has a higher watt density than the element 16. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Batliwalla's invention to include the heating elements as taught by Higgins in order to generate non-uniform heating zones. As for claims 9-10 and 18 Higgins discloses a third heating element 20 with a third heating zone and a fourth heating element 22 with a fourth heating zone (Fig. 1-2).

5. Claims 11 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Batliwalla in view of MacCracken et al (5,632,919).

Batliwalla discloses substantially the claimed invention including polymeric layers 28 and 30, but does not disclose a silicon rubber. MacCracken discloses a heater 10 with a silicone rubber insulated heating element 24 (col. 2, lines 49-51). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Batliwalla's invention to use a silicon rubber insulation as taught by MacCracken as one of the commonly used insulation in the art.

As for claim 14, the layer 30 is secured to the layer 28 by an adhesive 32 and is inherently removable from the layer 28 as necessary.

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Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonid M Fastovsky whose telephone number is 571-272-4778. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th. 8.00 am -6.00 pm.

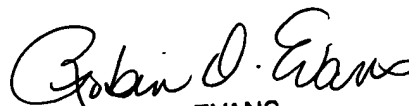
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on 571-272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Leonid M Fastovsky
Examiner
Art Unit 3742

3/1/05

lmf


ROBIN O. EVANS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
3/1/05